

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A Resolution Establishing Research and Data Gathering for Large Predator Depravation and
Predatory Pressure on Domestic Livestock and Wildlife in Gallatin County**

Whereas, for several years citizens of Gallatin County have contacted and solicited their county government for action by any and all legal means, regarding worsening conditions as a result of U.S. Government placement of wolves in Gallatin County and the effects of large predators in general; and

Whereas, citizens have asserted significant adverse economic impacts as a result of large predator predation on domestic livestock and wildlife; and

Whereas, citizens have asserted significant adverse environmental impacts as a result of large predator predation on the resident elk herd, a crucial natural resource; and

Whereas, citizens have asserted significant social and cultural impacts to hunters, ranchers and outdoorsmen due to a loss of historical use of public lands; and

Whereas, a de facto State of Emergency may exist as evidenced by alarming ungulate population numbers and cow/calf ratios, increased predation on livestock and increasing direct encounters with people; and

Whereas, as reported March 1, 2012 by Associated Press, wolf population statewide has increased by 15% in 2011 alone; and

Whereas, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks has counted and verified 637 individual wolves, 130 packs and 39 breeding pairs at the end of 2011; and

Whereas, Montana's wolf plan sets a minimum of 15 breeding pairs and 150 wolves; and

Whereas, 87-1-217 (6) MCA specifically gives authority to County Commissioners to coordinate with state and federal agencies in decisions involving large predators and large game species.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved: The Gallatin County Board of Commissioners shall immediately begin a process of research and data gathering for the purposes of establishing facts, quantifying the impacts of large predators and developing a policy of large predator control in Gallatin County. The Commission shall report the results no later than September 1, 2012 and requests assistance and cooperation in this endeavor from citizens and all state and federal agencies.

GALLATIN COUNTY COMMISSION

DATED: _____

R. Stephen White, Chairman

ATTEST:

William A. Murdock, Member

Charlotte Mills, Clerk & Recorder

Joe P. Skinner, Member